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Agenda item 167

COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE ORGANIZATION FOR THE PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS

Letter dated 17 May 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to attach a copy of the statement made by His Excellency President Fidel V. Ramos of the Republic of the Philippines welcoming the entry into force of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction (see annex).

The statement was issued in Acapulco, Mexico, on 10 May 1997 during the President's state visit to Mexico.

I further have the honour to request that the present letter and the attached statement be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda item 167.

(Signed) Felipe MABILANGAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

97-13600 (E) 270597 290597

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ANNEX

Statement made on 10 May 1997 at Acapulco, Mexico, by the President of the Republic of the Philippines on the entry into force of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction

I would like to welcome the entry into force of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction. The Chemical Weapons Convention entered into force on 29 April 1997, 180 days after the sixty-fifth deposit by a State party of its instrument of ratification.

The Chemical Weapons Convention is a comprehensive agreement containing credible verification mechanisms aimed at abolishing an entire category of weapons of mass destruction.

The Philippines is of the firm belief that this agreement, in which negotiations and drafting the Philippines actively participated, will serve effectively to prohibit the development, production, acquisition, transfer, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and will lead to their destruction.

The Philippines has always been among those who have stressed the importance of universal participation in the Chemical Weapons Convention. Of particular importance is the participation of all possessors of chemical weapons, chemical weapons production facilities or chemical weapons development facilities. In addition, we have made calls for the two largest declared possessors of chemical weapons, the United States of America and the Russian Federation, to ratify the Chemical Weapons Convention.

In this regard, I would like to welcome in particular the recent ratification by the United States of the Convention. I would also like to welcome the positive efforts being exerted by the Government of the Russian Federation to ratify the Convention. I would also like to express the hope that Russia ratifies the Convention soon.

The next step now is to establish the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) as provided for in the Convention. This is the body that will monitor and supervise the implementation of the provisions of the Convention. The Philippines has been actively participating in the Preparatory Commission tasked with establishing OPCW. The next meeting of the Preparatory Commission this month will be a critical one and the Philippines will intensify its efforts as it continues to work actively with the other States parties to the Convention in establishing OPCW.

Philippine support for the Chemical Weapons Convention is part of our country's policy that true and lasting international and regional peace, stability and progress will be enhanced by the elimination of weapons of mass destruction and the regulation of conventional weapons.

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THE SITUATION IN BURUNDI

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Letter dated 23 May 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement by the Presidency of the European Union on Burundi, issued on 20 May 1997 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 43, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) N. H. BIEGMAN
Permanent Representative of
the Netherlands to the United Nations

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ANNEX

[Original: French]

Statement by the Presidency of the European Union on Burundi, issued on 20 May 1997

The European Union notes with satisfaction the announcement on 13 May by President Pierre Buyoya of the negotiations that are under way in Rome in order to bring about a ceasefire in Burundi and also of the forthcoming start of the political negotiations under the auspices of the former President of Tanzania, Julius Nyerere, in which all the parties in Burundi should be involved.

It considers that this announcement represents an important stage in the search for negotiated solutions to the conflict in Burundi. It encourages the parties concerned to begin this process as soon as possible.

The European Union cautions them against any attempt to resort to force in order to impede the process of national reconciliation.

The European Union reiterates its concern about the humanitarian situation in the assembly camps and calls upon the regime of Burundi to dismantle the camps as speedily as possible.

The European Union recalls its statement of 7 May, in which it firmly condemned the continuation of the violence in the field and, in particular, the massacres and acts of extortion perpetrated against the civilian population. It urgently appeals to all of the armed groups to agree to an immediate cessation of hostilities in order to halt the violence and create conditions for starting negotiations in an atmosphere of trust and tranquillity.

The European Union is prepared to promote the peace process by providing its assistance both at the political level and in terms of the concrete aid which would prove necessary for the process aimed at restoring democracy. To this end, it enlists its Special Envoy, Mr. Ajello, to support the efforts of the mediator, Mr. Julius Nyerere, in cooperation with the Special Representative of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity, Mr. Sahnoun, and the other international observers.

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FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PREVENTIVE DEPLOYMENT FORCE

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the reports of the Secretary-General contained in documents A/51/519/Add.4 and A/51/508/Add.3 on the financing of the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMIBH) and the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force (UNPREDEP) for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998. During its consideration of the reports, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General who provided it with clarifications and additional information.

I. UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

2. The report of the Secretary-General contained in document A/51/519/Add.4 includes the revised cost estimates for the maintenance of UNMIBH, including the United Nations Mission of Observers in Prevlaka (UNMOP), for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998 and should be read in conjunction with documents A/51/519/Add.1 and Add.2. It is recalled that the proposed budget for UNMIBH was originally estimated at $172.6 million gross (see A/51/519/Add.1) and was subsequently revised by the Secretary-General to $165.6 million gross (see A/51/519/Add.2) to reflect the decision to discontinue the payment of hazard duty allowance, effective 1 December 1996. Furthermore, it is recalled that as a result of its consideration of the proposed budget for UNMIBH (A/51/519/Add.1 and 2), the Advisory Committee had recommended that the General Assembly appropriate a total amount of $159.0 million gross for the maintenance of UNMIBH during the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998 and assess at a monthly rate of $13.3 million gross, subject to extension of the mandate of UNMIBH beyond 21 December 1997 (A/51/872, para. 52). The Assembly has not yet considered the

reports of the Secretary-General (A/51/519/Add.1 and 2) and the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/51/872).

3. The revised cost estimates reflect additional requirements of $12.9 million gross resulting from Security Council resolution 1103 (1997) of 31 March 1997, by which the Council authorized an increase in the strength of UNMIBH by 186 civilian police for the International Police Task Force (IPTF) in Brcko. The additional requirements reflect the deployment of 11 international and 115 local staff, as well as the acquisition of 82 vehicles, communications equipment and supplies and services. The overall UNMIBH budget reflects, therefore, cost estimates related to the deployment of 28 military observers, 5 military liaison officers, 1,907 civilian police, 382 international staff and 1,083 local staff.

4. The Committee was informed, upon inquiry, that although the Security Council, by its resolution 1107 (1997) of 16 May 1997, had authorized the deployment of 120 additional IPTF monitors for UNMIBH to implement the human rights, training and restructuring aspects of its mandate, the Secretariat, owing to a lack of time, was not able to prepare the related cost estimates in time for consideration by the General Assembly at its current session. The Secretariat anticipates that the 120 additional IPTF monitors will be fully deployed before 1 July 1997. The estimates will be submitted by the Secretary-General to the Assembly at its fifty-second session.

5. The representatives of the Secretary-General submitted, upon a request of the Advisory Committee, the following clarification on the deployment of the 186 additional police monitors referred to in the report of the Secretary-General (A/51/519/Add.4, para. 9): the deployment, which started during the month of April 1997, was expected to be completed before 1 July 1997. The Committee was informed that 176 of the 186 police monitors had been deployed in Brcko as at 19 May 1997. Furthermore, the Committee was informed that the cost associated with the deployment of the 186 police monitors during the three-month period (April to June 1997), which was expected to be absorbed within existing resources for the current budget period, was estimated at $1.6 million.

6. Under the revised staffing requirements (A/51/519/Add.4, paras. 11 and 12), the deployment of 186 additional police monitors would require the support of 11 international staff (5 P-3 and 6 Field Service) as well as 115 locally recruited language assistants. Although the Advisory Committee does not object to the proposed staffing requirements, it recommends that the functions described in the report be undertaken with due regard to efficiency and that the administration review the overall need for locally recruited language assistants with a view to reducing their number. The results of the review should be reflected in the next report on the financing of UNMIBH.

7. With regard to the proposed acquisition of vehicles to support additional police, international staff and locally recruited language assistants, the Advisory Committee reiterates its previous recommendation (see A/51/872, para. 49) that before the purchase orders are issued, the administration should ascertain that the duration of the mandate of the Mission and the level of operational activities indeed require the acquisition of all of the new vehicles.

8. Taking into account the comments and observations made in the foregoing paragraphs, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly appropriate a total amount of $172.0 million gross (inclusive of $159.0 million gross already recommended by the Committee) for the maintenance of the Mission during the 12-month period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998 and that it assess at a monthly rate of $14.3 million gross, subject to extension of the mandate of UNMIBH by the Security Council beyond 21 December 1997. Moreover, the Committee has no objection to the proposal by the Secretary-General that the special arrangements regarding article IV of the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations be applied to UNMIBH (see A/51/519/Add.1, para. 21).

II. UNITED NATIONS PREVENTIVE DEPLOYMENT FORCE

9. The revised cost estimates of $49.5 million gross for the maintenance of UNPREDEP for the period from 1 January to 30 June 1996 result from Security Council resolution 1105 (1997) of 9 April 1997, by which the Council decided to suspend the reduction of the military component of UNPREDEP until the end of its current mandate on 31 May 1997.

10. The report of the Secretary-General on the revised cost estimates (A/51/508/Add.3) should be read in conjunction with the original budget (A/51/508/Add.1) which provided $44.3 million for a reduced military strength of 750 troops pursuant to Security Council resolution 1082 (1996) of 27 November 1996. In that connection, the Advisory Committee reiterates its earlier statement that, as a result of the hearings in the Committee, the estimates were reduced by the Secretariat to $42.2 million gross to reflect more completely the impact of the reduction in the number of troops from 1,050 to 750 (A/51/872, para. 86).

11. The Advisory Committee points out that while the revised cost estimates are based on the assumption of the full military strength of 1,050 troops during the entire 12-month period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998, the Secretary-General, in his report to the Security Council on UNPREDEP, recommended that "the present strength of the Force be maintained for a period of four months, up to 30 September 1997, with a view to starting as of 1 October 1997, taking into account the conditions prevailing at that time, a two-month phased reduction of the military component to the 750 troop level foreseen by the Council in resolution 1082 (1996)" (S/1997/365, para. 27).

12. In that connection, the Advisory Committee points out that the operational and budget requirements for the Mission should have been estimated for the following periods within the 12-month budget period: from 1 July to 30 September 1997 when 1,050 troops will be maintained; from 1 October to 30 November 1997 when the military component of the Mission will be gradually reduced from 1,050 to 750 troops; and from 1 December 1997 to 30 June 1998 when 750 troops will be maintained. The Committee was informed, upon request, that the impact on the revised cost estimates of the reduction in the number of troops from 1,050 to 750 after 30 September 1997 would be a reduction of $3.2 million. The Committee points out, however, that the reduction is not complete, since it has an impact on only one budget line: "military contingents".

13. A more precise reflection in the cost estimates of the reduction in the number of troops would be, in the view of the Committee, a proration of the estimate of $42.2 million gross, referred to in paragraph 10 above, for the period of eight months from 1 November 1997 to 30 June 1998, during most of which 750 troops will be maintained. On the other hand, the requirements for the period from 1 July to 31 October 1997, during most of which 1,050 troops will be maintained, should be based on the proposed estimates of $49.5 million gross.

14. Accordingly, the requirements for the period from 1 July to 31 October 1997 should be estimated at $16.5 million gross (i.e., $49.5 million prorated for four months), and the requirements for the period from 1 November 1997 to 30 June 1998 should amount to $28.1 million gross (i.e., $42.2 million prorated for eight months).

15. Taking into account the comments and observations made in the foregoing paragraphs, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly appropriate a total amount of $44.6 million gross for the maintenance of the Mission during the 12-month period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998 and that it assess at a monthly rate of $4,125,000 gross during the period from 1 July to 31 October 1997 and thereafter (until 30 June 1998) at a monthly rate of $3,512,500 gross, subject to extension of the mandate of UNPREDEP by the Security Council beyond 31 May 1997. Moreover, the Committee has no objection to the proposal by the Secretary-General that the special arrangements regarding article IV of the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations be applied to UNPREDEP (see A/51/508/Add.1, para. 12).

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THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Letter dated 27 May 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement issued on 25 May 1997 by the Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Mr. Gohar Ayub Khan, on the decision by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to recognize the new Government of the Islamic State of Afghanistan (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 39, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ahmad KAMAL
Ambassador and Permanent Representative

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ANNEX

Statement by the Foreign Minister of Pakistan, issued on 25 May 1997

1. For 18 long years, the people of Afghanistan have gone through immense sufferings and have seen their country ravaged by war. As a neighbour and well-wisher, Pakistan has also been directly affected by the conflict in Afghanistan.

2. Our policy has been consistently aimed at the restoration of durable peace in Afghanistan. Towards this end, we have lent our support to all efforts aimed at promoting an intra-Afghan dialogue leading to the establishment of a broad-based Government. Our policy has always been and continues to be one of strict non-interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

3. Like most countries, the Government of Pakistan has been dealing with various regimes in Afghanistan by virtue of their control of Kabul. Despite the fact that the Rabbani regime has long lost its legitimacy and has been ousted from Kabul, it is a matter of regret that it continues to be recognized by the international community. This situation now needs to be remedied.

4. The Government of Pakistan has appreciated the landmark decision taken by the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) at the twenty-fourth session of the Conference of Foreign Ministers of OIC held at Jakarta in December 1996 (see A/51/774-S/1997/45, annex), when the representative of the Rabbani regime was ousted and the seat of Afghanistan kept vacant.

5. The recent developments in northern Afghanistan have shown that the Uzbek and Tajik commanders have risen in revolt against their leadership in favour of the Taliban. According to reports, after the fall of Shibergan, the joint forces of the Taliban and General Malik were able to enter Mazar-e-Sharif with little resistance or bloodshed. The Afghan Government now controls 26 provinces and genuinely comprises various ethnic groups in Afghanistan. We have seen that the Taliban advances since their emergence in 1994 have been popularly acclaimed by the Afghan people, who have made no secret of their desire to get rid of the tyrannical rule of the war in which the lives, honour and property of innocent citizens was not safe.

6. The Government of Pakistan has also noted with interest the statement of the Taliban leadership in which they have clearly stated that they would adhere strictly to a policy of neutrality and non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries and would not allow any country to interfere in their internal affairs. The Taliban leadership has also attached high priority to the restoration of peace and stability in Afghanistan and has sought the assistance of the international community for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Afghanistan.

7. Pakistan has so far withheld recognition of the new Government in order to give time for the promotion of a broad-based Government through peaceful negotiation. I am happy to announce that the Government of Pakistan has now decided to accord formal recognition to the new Government of the Islamic State

of Afghanistan. We feel that the new Government fulfils all criteria for de jure recognition. It is now in effective control of most of the territory of Afghanistan and is representative of all ethnic groups in that country.

8. We look forward to a meaningful and cooperative relationship with the Government and the people of the Islamic State of Afghanistan in the interest of the peace and security of the region.

9. I would like to take this opportunity to express the hope that, following the recent developments in Afghanistan, the United Nations, OIC and other international organizations would also take the just decision of recognizing the new Government of the Islamic State of Afghanistan. We also hope that the international community will fulfil its responsibility for the reconstruction and economic development of the brotherly State of Afghanistan.